

**Questions & Answers
Bureau of Land Management
Geothermal Leasing Nominations**

Who may nominate lands for geothermal leasing?

Nominations for Federal geothermal leasing may be from either 1) a United States citizen at least 18 years old; 2) an association of United States citizens, including a partnership; 3) a corporation organized under the laws of the United States; 4) any state or the District of Columbia; or 5) a domestic governmental unit.

How are lands nominated?

Nominations must be submitted in writing on Form 3203-10, Nomination of Lands for Competitive Geothermal Leasing, to the proper BLM State Office. Lands surveyed under the public land survey system are to be described to the nearest aliquot part. Each nomination is to be no larger than 5,120 acres, unless the area includes one or more irregular subdivisions.

A nominator may submit more than one nomination. Each nomination requires a nonrefundable filing fee (43 CFR 3203.12), currently \$100.00, plus \$0.10 per acre, rounded up to the nearest acre.

Will BLM offer the nomination as it was submitted?

The BLM will make every effort to offer the lands as requested and process the nominations on a “first-in, first-out” basis. It is important that the nominator carefully review the status of the lands to be nominated to assure that the lands are open and available for geothermal resource leasing. In the case of multiple filings for the same lands, BLM may reconfigure the lands to be included in each parcel offered for sale.

How long will it take before my nomination is put up for auction?

The BLM will make every effort to process nominations on a “first-in, first-out” basis. However, BLM may establish priorities based on the adequacy of existing NEPA documents, which may result in newer nominations being processed ahead of older ones. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct) requires that BLM hold a lease sale at least every two years when parcels are available for leasing. It is BLM’s intention to offer geothermal parcels for lease in conjunction with quarterly oil and gas lease sales.

When will BLM offer parcels as a block for competitive sale?

A nominator may request that lands be offered as a block, or BLM may offer leases as a block on its own initiative for competitive sale. The request must specify that the lands will be associated with a project or unit and include information to support the request. The BLM may require the nominator to submit additional information to support the request.

What lands are open to geothermal leasing?

Geothermal leasing is allowed on lands managed by the Department of the Interior including public, withdrawn, and acquired lands; lands managed by other Federal agencies with their consent for leasing; on any National Forest or other lands administered by the Department of Agriculture through the Forest Service, including public, withdrawn, and acquired lands; and on lands that have been conveyed by the United States with rights to the geothermal resources reserved to the United States.

Lands within National Recreation Areas; lands in a Federal fish hatchery, National Wildlife Refuge, wildlife range, game range, wildlife management area, waterfowl production area; lands acquired or reserved for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction from geothermal leasing, wilderness, and wilderness study areas are not open to such leasing. Tribally or individually owned Indian trust or restricted lands, within or without the boundaries of Indian reservations, are available for geothermal leasing only through the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

For more information, please contact:

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